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Long Island College  
Hospital

Inauguration of James  
Chidester Egbert, Ph.D. ...

[Brooklyn, N.Y.]

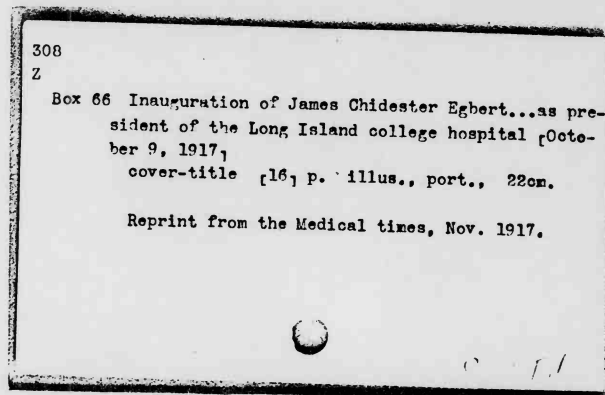
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Gift of the President

MAR 27 1918

INAUGURATION OF

**James Chidester Egbert, Ph. D.**

AS PRESIDENT OF THE

**Long Island College Hospital.**

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19 Feb. 1920 - C. R. W.

## Inauguration of James Chidester Egbert, Ph. D.

As President of the

Long Island College Hospital.



JAMES CHIDESTER EGBERT, Ph. D. PRESIDENT OF THE L. I. C. HOSPITAL

With simple but impressive ceremonies, James Chidester Egbert, Ph.D., director of the Departments of Extension Teaching and of Summer Sessions of Columbia University, was inaugurated as the President of the Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, on October 9.

The beginning of the fifty-ninth year of instruction in the college was fittingly observed by the exercises which made Dr. Egbert, one of the foremost educators in the country, the successor of the late John Alva McCorkle, M.D.

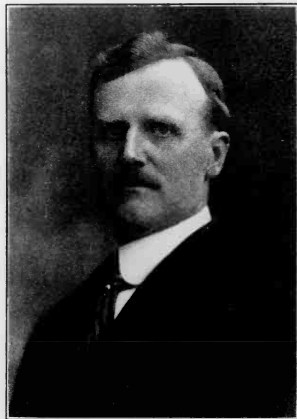
The spacious amphitheatre in the Polhemus Memorial

LONG  
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The spacious amphitheatre in the Polhemus Memorial

Clinic was crowded with students, alumni and invited guests of the college.

The faculty, in academic robes, occupied the two front rows, while the regents, council and guests sat in the lecture pit.

Dean Otto V. Huffman of the college presided. After prayer by Rev. Dr. A. A. Shaw, this program was carried out:

#### **The Induction.**

By Percy S. Dudley, A.B., LL.B.,  
President of the Board of Regents of the College.

#### **Acceptance.**

By the President of the College.

#### **Salutation.**

By William Francis Campbell, M.D.,  
Professor of Surgery,  
In behalf of the Council, Faculty and Alumni.

#### **Greetings by Delegates.**

Hon. Charles B. Alexander, LL.D.,  
Regent of the University of the State of New York.

In behalf of the State.  
Nicholas Murray Butler, LL.D.,  
President of Columbia University.

In behalf of the University.  
Frank D. Blodgett, LL.D.,  
President of Adelphi College.

In behalf of the Brooklyn Institutions of  
Higher Learning.  
Samuel W. Lambert, M.D.,  
Dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons,  
Columbia University.

In behalf of the Medical Schools.

The greetings of the delegates were of the heartiest nature. The eloquent tribute of President Butler to President Egbert as a Latin scholar, archaeologist, educator and a man made a profound impression on the audience, for the two presidents have been closely associated in the activities of Columbia University for many years. Dr. Egbert was hailed as a living and conclusive argument in favor of a classical education.

Following the formal exercises the new President was presented to the regents, council and faculty at a luncheon served in the college library.

The addresses follow:

#### **THE INDUCTION.**

PERCY S. DUDLEY, A.B., LL.B.,

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE LONG ISLAND COLLEGE  
HOSPITAL.

Brooklyn.

In this momentous epoch, all activities are affected by the world conflict which is going on. All human endeavor is mobilizing for the *gigantic* struggle. Every economic force, every department of science is called upon to exert an influence on the result. As to each individual, so to an institution such as this, comes the question—What can we do to give the best that is in us?

To the medical profession at large, the answer has been plain and the response to the call immediate. In America, as in Europe, the best traditions of the profession have been worthily sustained; and never have the efforts of its members been more fruitful and beneficent. Terrible as is the toll of dead and wounded by shot and shell, preventive medicine has secured the armies from the scourge of typhoid and dysentery and checked the ravages of typhus and tetanus, which make so dark a record in the history of most previous wars; and modern surgery has saved the lives and limbs of thousands who, but a few years ago, would have been helplessly doomed.

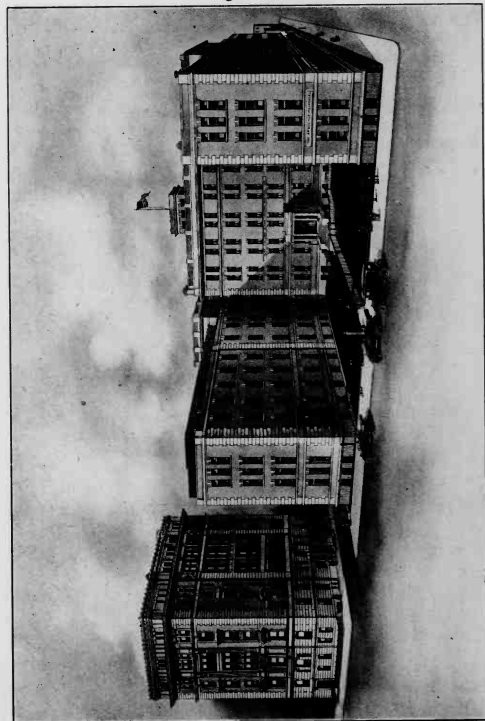
In meeting the pressing demands for service near the front, there is danger of neglecting less inspiring but indispensable duties at home. Higher prices and harder living tend to increase disease among those left behind and the advance in the death rate will show that war sacrifices the lives of noncombatants as well as of those who fight hand-to-hand.

We learn by the experience of other countries that it would be a short-sighted policy to strip this country of all its doctors at any time or to cut off the supply of trained men by calling out prematurely those who are preparing themselves for future usefulness. The right policy has been officially adopted by this Government in ordering that hospital interns and fourth, third and second year medical students, upon furnishing proper credentials, be released from the draft until the completion of their training.

This is the correct construction of the Selective Service Act and the sound basis for universal service. It is not intended to check the enthusiasm of the volunteer nor to refuse the willing offer of the patriot, but to steady the supply and maintain the reserve force which mean strength, endurance and ultimate victory. Properly understood, every man is in the service, here or abroad, and to each his turn for action may come; but "they also serve who only stand and wait." The obligation upon each one is to be ready and willing and so to prepare himself that, when the time arrives, he can give his utmost. Then the period of waiting will not be wasted but will be productive and advantageous, as study and practice add knowledge to the brain and skill to the hand.

This obligation rests upon every student of medicine and you are fortunate in that your preparation will increase your usefulness many fold and fit you for the tremendous responsibilities which, now more than ever, burden the medical profession. It is the obligation of this college to help you in this preparation, to guide you in your studies, and to give you practical training in their application. An adequate equipment, a competent teaching staff and unequalled clinical facilities afford a student at Long Island as good a chance to profit by his hard work and to deserve his diploma as he would have anywhere in the country; and a graduate of Long Island has no reason to fear the rivalry of competitors or the test of actual practice. The men who go out from this college will be fit to do their duty and I am sure they will do it.

Now, in this whole matter of teaching and learning medicine, there is something more than the mere imparting and acquiring of scientific knowledge, however profound, something more than research into problems however complex. It is the entrance to a noble profession and both teacher and student fall short if they lack the inspiration of their high calling. There is a spirit of approach, a personal attitude toward the work of your life, which can lift it above material or even intellectual gain and make your profession far more than a means of livelihood. Both professors and pupils should be imbued with this spirit and in these years the ideals should be formed and the standards fixed that will give aim and purpose to your life. An educational institution where such a spirit prevails has an ethical character which is impressed on its graduates and which



LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND POLHEMUS MEMORIAL

is strengthened by tradition as the years go on. It prevails in some of our universities and I see no reason why it should not be cultivated and thrive also in a medical college.

Therefore in seeking to fill the vacant presidency of this college it was eminently fitting to select not only a scholar of high attainments and an educator of wide experience, but a man who had been an inspiring leader in the progress of one of our greatest universities, a vital force in its marvellous growth and extension. For such a man would foster and develop the true professional spirit and bring new life and strength to our college.

The Board of Regents, in confirming the unanimous choice of the Council and Faculties, felt that these qualifications were completely met and that the Long Island College Hospital was to be congratulated upon the acceptance of its offer.

Gentlemen, I take pleasure in introducing to you, as president of this college, Dr. James Chidester Egbert, heretofore of Columbia University, but now, as well, of the Long Island College Hospital.

#### THE ACCEPTANCE.

JAMES CHIDESTER EGBERT, Ph. D.,  
Brooklyn, New York.

The institution at whose call we are present here today has not as yet reached old age, but is just completing its three score years. Nevertheless, in the period of its existence it has had a most active and useful career, and has been the witness of extraordinary changes in the nation and in the city with whose history its own is so closely entwined.

In the month of March, 1856, a little group of German physicians established what was known as the Brooklyn German Dispensary at 132 Court Street. On October 27, 1857 a meeting was held in this Dispensary at which the organization of a hospital to be known as St. John's Hospital was proposed. This meeting can be regarded virtually as the beginning of the Long Island College Hospital. On November 5, at an adjourned meeting the charter and by-laws were presented and the hospital became a realized fact. In the minutes of December 23 of the same year we find a reference to the "officers of St. John's College Hospital." This is notable as the first instance of this form of the name with which we are familiar. The meeting was important also as the

occasion on which the name was changed to Long Island Hospital and Medical College, and action was taken looking to a suitable modification of the charter and by-laws. On February 4 of the following year, 1858, the minutes record a meeting of the "Regents of the Long Island College Hospital" and the final form of the name is then used for the first time. The importance of these changes in title rests in the fact that the College and hospital were evidently closely identified in the minds of the Regents of these early days. In other words these men with keen judgment recognized even at this time the absolute necessity of combining a medical school with a hospital so that clinical opportunities might be at hand for these students.

In the eight months of the year 1858 remarkable progress was made in the development of the institution. The Perry property on the west side of Henry Street between Amity and Pacific Streets was selected as a site for the building. The first Council was organized, and on June 2 the Inauguration Festival took place. In the fall the new building was ready and the college began its active career. The days that followed were, however, filled with anxiety and finally on December 23 of the next year the building was sold and the institution was closed because of financial difficulties. In March, 1860, the College Hospital was reopened and then entered upon a career in the progress of which we rejoice today. On July 24 the first Commencement was held in the Chapel of Packer Institute. Among the names of those who devoted themselves to the interests of the College Hospital at this time we find Senator Samuel Sloan, Dr. W. H. Dudley, the father of the present President of the Board of Regents, Dr. T. L. Mason, Professors Austin Flint, R. O. Doremus, F. H. Hamilton, and J. C. Dalton. In times such as these we can readily appreciate the courage of these men. When the institution was founded the clouds of war were gathering and every one dreaded the coming of civil strife. The same uncertainty, which we understand so well, prevailed, and any plan, however noble, demanding financial aid from benevolent givers was looked upon with disfavor. The faith and courage of the founders of Long Island College Hospital should inspire us when serious interference with revenue threatens the well being of our universities and colleges.

It is gratifying to record the part taken by the hos-



pital at the time of the Civil War, when it received and cared for the sick and wounded soldiers. In the spring of 1898 during the Spanish-American War a similar service was rendered. All this tended to distinguish the hospital as of special value to the nation and to the city. The Long Island Hospital has not lacked the help of benefactors. In fact, from its earliest history it has received many evidences of the generosity of the citizens of Brooklyn. To this spirit we owe the Hoagland Laboratory, the gift of Dr. Cornelius T. Hoagland, who saw in bacteriology the one science most promising in the field of medicine. Mrs. Caroline H. Polhemus, desiring to establish a memorial to her husband, furnished the funds for the erection of this building in which we are assembled to-day. The hospital proper includes the Maxwell and Arbuckle Memorials, which with the Annex and the Dudley, Herriman and McCorkle Memorials, forming the nurses' homes, complete the group of buildings, affording extraordinary facilities for the study of medicine. This then is the educational institution the titular head of which you are now formally installing. These are simple exercises. The installation of a president of a college is becoming commonplace. Nevertheless there are certain peculiar conditions associated with this occasion which lift it out of the ordinary and deserve careful consideration on the part of all of us.

Our minds at this moment, regardless of the object for which we are assembled, are burdened with the thought that the world is at war. In the presence of this great calamity it becomes increasingly difficult to adjust our thoughts so as to view with reason what is occurring in the world of to-day. Some are tempted to despair, others with sublime confidence in the final triumph of right recognize fully the unfortunate necessity of relying upon military force to bring this triumph, but turn with great satisfaction to all those instrumentalities which tend to ameliorate the results of "man's inhumanity to man which makes countless thousands mourn."

Fortunate indeed is the lot of the officer and student of an institution such as this. Here we train men and women to protect from plague and disease those who are gathering to contend in a righteous cause. Here we learn to heal wounds made by shot and shell. In so doing we prove that mankind is not wanting in the spirit of humanity, but even in this time of war and blood shed is moving toward the goal of true human progress.

But this is not all. We must remember that armies and navies will be of little avail without the aid of those who work through these remedial agencies. One who devotes himself to this profession of medicine with unselfish spirit is a true patriot and essential to the welfare of his country. We are looking to you, young men, to the alumni, to the faculty for this patriotic spirit, which will add to the fair fame of this institution for national service in time of national emergency.

Let us turn now to the consideration of this college as one of the educational institutions of this great city.

When Columbia University invited a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn to become its president, the so-called Greater New York did not exist. Brooklyn was a thriving city independent of its neighbor, the metropolis, although there existed an intimate interchange of life and business inevitable with adjoining communities. To-day these two cities are one; they have a central government; they have common interests and similar possibilities of development. The drawing together of these two communities is the natural tendency which we all will accept as mutually advantageous. Long Island College Hospital should, therefore, assume its position as located in New York and claim for itself all that such a location implies. For the purpose of professional training a large city it unexcelled and this is true of New York. This college, therefore, should become in every sense a city institution. I would carry this still further and ask not only that we should place ourselves among the institutions of learning of Greater New York, but that we should learn the lesson of most active cooperation. Educational institutions like churches have in other days viewed each other with more or less jealous rivalry, although recently this spirit has been rapidly declining. As these two communities are being more closely drawn together, so I am pleading for much greater cooperation between the colleges of this city. There are diverse views as to the advisability of such intimate relationship. The possible loss of individuality and subsequently of activity and energy are feared. Certainly any form of union which should render such misfortune possible should be deprecated. Interference with institutional independence is not called for. Close cooperation with mutual independence leading to a federation cannot be open to such criticism. From this would come similarity and consequent eleva-

tion of standards, an interchange of students, assistance in the selection of instructors, and cooperation in administration. Such united action on the part of the colleges of this city would usher in the day of wonderful development in higher education.

If all this is true of our city colleges in general it is particularly true of professional schools devoted to the study of medicine. This was appreciated in Philadelphia when an attempt was made to bring all the medical schools under one control. Such a complete amalgamation may not seem desirable but the unity of action of which I speak cannot fail to be of advantage. With thoughts such as these in our minds we can understand the significance of the installation of an officer of Columbia University as president of the college.

We should not neglect the fact that the organization of the Long Island College Hospital admits of such action. There is a Board of Regents which presides with judgment and devotion over the interests of the entire institution. There is a council which forms a line between the regents and the faculty. The immediate administrative control of the educational work is assigned to a dean and the faculty. The president of the college is its titular head, and presiding in the council and faculty is the formal administrative officer and educational adviser.

Because such service can be rendered by an officer of another institution the opportunity is afforded of finding and maintaining community of interest which will be of value to the college hospital and also to Columbia. Having been trained as an aristocrat in education, and for many years believing that the classics were indispensable in the education of a gentleman, as the years of my service at Columbia have gone by, I have become a thorough democrat, until now it is almost an obsession with me to place educational opportunities before all that long for them. This cooperation of which I have been speaking and particularly the union of effort on the part of Columbia University and the Long Island College Hospital, I believe, will tend to increase and extend the facilities for professional training in New York and greater numbers will receive the education they desire.

In closing may I refer to my predecessor, the late Dr. John A. McCorkle. I did not have the pleasure of knowing him, but I desire to record the fact that the influence of his genial spirit still abides. He was a kindly



THE HOAGLAND LABORATORY

## INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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man with a tender heart, a representative of that group of so-called family physicians now so rapidly disappearing. With a broad mind he welcomed innovations which he believed meant the development and growth of the institution he loved.

Mr. President of the Board of Regents, Gentlemen of the Council and Faculty, students of the college, I accept the office of president with deep appreciation of the honor you have conferred upon me, but above all of the opportunity which such an appointment affords. May this day be the harbinger of helpful cooperation which may mean much for the progress of medical education in this great city.

### THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND THE PRESENT CRISIS.\*

WILLIAM FRANCIS CAMPBELL, F. A. C. S.,  
PROFESSOR OF SURGERY IN THE LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Fifty-seven years ago, on the eve of the Civil War, the first class was graduated from Long Island College Hospital.

Not since that event have we commemorated any occasion fraught with such deep significance as this we celebrate to-day.

We have assembled to conduct into office a new president.

This for us is no mere perfunctory ceremony.

For fifty-seven years Long Island College Hospital has faithfully served this community; its long roll of alumni attests the fine contribution it has made to the social welfare. Amid the changing times and the ever-advancing standards, through periods of adversity and unstable fortune, it has struggled and it has survived, and it has maintained an honorable place among the eleemosynary institutions of this borough.

You have come to us, sir, at an opportune time—the fallow ground is ready for an abundant harvest. We need the heartening which will come from contact with your broad scholarship, your wise counsel, and your wide experience in advancing the cause of higher education.

We would indulge in no extravagant promise; there

\*Address delivered at the inauguration of President Egbert, Long Island College Hospital, October 9, 1917.

is but one pledge we can offer: You will be surrounded by a band of men who are much in earnest, men who are willing to serve and to sacrifice, that this institution founded and nurtured by a host of noble spirits, whose memory hallows this occasion, may remain an abiding memorial to their splendid sacrifices and to their wise philanthropy.

We do not wish this institution to survive if it is not fit to live, but we wish to make it so fit that it cannot die.

This means something more than bricks and mortar, something more than an extensive plant, however modern or replete. There is much in institutional architecture that suggests a formidable coat of mail, wrapped about an attenuated body.

We need often to hark back to basic facts and to readjust our perspective by a consideration of the *raison d'être*.

Professor Vaughan has recently defined life as function rather than form; and this applies essentially as well to groups of individuals working together as to the single individual working for himself. The hospital represents essentially function rather than form. The hospital is not merely the child of civilization, it is one of the finest flowers of civilization. It represents a by-product of man at his best—man emerging from the age of force to the age of reason—from antagonism to fraternity and cooperation—from economic necessities to economic surplus. Eleemosynary institutions are possible only where economic conditions represent surplus, excess, prosperity—man producing in excess of his needs. Extraordinary endowments are possible only because of extraordinary prosperity. The hospital represents man at work not for himself but for his fellow-man.

We would have, therefore, our enterprise dominated by the basic fact that, amid this group of splendid buildings with all its elaborate organization for technical work and systematic education, there stands as the central figure of all its endeavor the patient—his needs dominating every other consideration.

If we would preserve our perspective in due proportion and hold our endeavor in fine balance, we must ever be mindful that the end result of this highly organized effort in ward, in laboratory, in operating room, and in lecture hall, is the salvage of human waste. We receive a patient; we aim to give back to society a useful

citizen; and in proportion as we do this efficiently are we an asset to the community and an investment for the state.

The time has come when the relation between the hospital and the community should be readjusted upon an intelligent basis. Why should one of our finest enterprises be subjected to the chagrin of assuming the attitude of a beggar asking alms? The "something for nothing" philosophy—the end of which is always bankruptcy—moral as well as financial, is not for this age.

The efficient hospital is one of the community's best investments, and every dollar that is given to a hospital should be given with the same intelligent discrimination that any other investment is made—the money is given because the enterprise is sound, the management efficient and the returns attractive.

It is this self-reliant attitude which Long Island College Hospital assumes in this community. It asks no alms; it seeks by the worth of its work and its efficiency in human salvage to be worthy of the benefits which may be bestowed upon it—not as an irresponsible beggar, but as a trustee who is ever seeking for security, betterment and definite returns.

And again we have assembled to-day under the shadow of a great war. Gigantic forces locked in a titanic struggle are striving for mastery—forces of which we are an integral part. How can we play a man's part that we may be worthy of a man's heritage?

This occasion gets much of its inspiration from the fact that we are addressing a student body, burning with patriotic enthusiasm to serve this nation in its hour of need.

Are we to hide under cover of personal expediency? What is our answer to this call?

Let me remind you that vanity plays too large a part in our estimate of what we should do to play the man's part in this conflict. We are misled by mistaking pride for patriotism, by believing that in order to serve our country we must necessarily wear a uniform.

The larger part of America's manhood is going to perform noble and patriotic service without a uniform. True patriotism is proclaimed by no external trappings. Common mufti is no handicap to patriotic endeavor.

Naaman, the Assyrian, was sick with a grievous disease; he came to the prophet Elijah to be cured, but he came with pomp and ceremony and princely gifts; his vanity craved the exhibition of some mystic rites, and

his pride was sorely wounded when the prophet prescribed only a bath in the muddy Jordan.

The common duties performed with common sense and uncommon enthusiasm is the highest service that most of us can render our country in her hour of need.

Sacrifice and service, these are the bone and sinew of patriotism. It's a sacrifice for many of you to stay home and perform the duty at hand, but you may be thereby rendering a larger service.

I do not wish to get far away from the boy's viewpoint—the boy is often right, because his vision is unclouded by an overfed body and a flabby soul. The boy wants to do something big and fine, to justify his own manhood—something big enough to make him "forget past failures and self-contempts" and out of it all to emerge wearing a new nobility.

Let me suggest that this is a war in which the resources of our country are to be so organized that there may result the maximum efficiency.

The government wants the job to fit the man—not the man trimmed to fit the job. It is as irrational to compel a doctor to shoulder a gun as it would be to ask an aviator to dig a trench.

Many of us believe that the best results can be obtained only by a selective draft, but since Congress yielded to the pressure of the so-called more democratic universal draft, the council of national defense are trying to mitigate many of the hardships of this draft by placing the conscripts where they belong according to their economic value.

In view, then, of this mobilization of resources to attain every ounce of strength that our country can put forth, what should be our attitude—we who are not in the field and camp? *This*—we are all potentially drafted for the period of the war, every one of us is going to serve and to sacrifice in order that our country may win this war for human freedom. This college is our cantonnement. Your country asks you to prepare to serve her efficiently by preparing for her a finished graduate in medicine.

She needs no half-baked medical students.

It has been said that this great war will be won by the medical profession. Perhaps this is true, but certain it is that a heavy responsibility rests upon the physicians and surgeons of this country.

Our brethren over the sea are sorely pressed. They are calling for reinforcements.

Our Government is now asking for 20,000 medical officers, and may ask for more later.

It means depleted ranks, and gaps to be filled by trained men.

What is our relation as a medical school to this problem?

It is the relation of the munition factory to the firing line.

We can't all be on the firing line, but we can all help to supply the needs of the firing line.

There is more need than ever for the medical school. The embargo which limits the size of our classes should be entirely removed during the period of the war.

The medical student should realize that he is in a peculiar sense preparing himself to serve his country in the high, holy and helpful office of physician. There are heavy tasks ahead for all. The call is for "true hearts, clear heads and clean hands" to help rehabilitate a world grown grim with the scars and disfigurements of war.

President Egbert: On behalf of the Board of Regents, the Council, the Faculty, the alumni, and the student body, I bear you felicitations and congratulations. I pledge you their hearty cooperation and loyal support, for we believe that your inauguration as our official head marks the rebirth of our institution and a new era of larger usefulness.

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